

5/14/2019

To; Gladstone Mayor Tammy Stempel and the Gladstone City Council

From: The Gladstone Parks Board

#### Lack of park funding in the next budget

The parks board would like the City Council members and the Mayor to re-consider the lack of funding for the Gladstone City Parks in the next proposed budget cycle. Leaving our Parks with nothing would be a terrible mistake. Not only does it leave the Parks lacking for future needed projects, it leaves them with no emergency fund except to come back to the council to transfer funds from another account later. A lack of preparedness is a precursor to failure. Our Parks, our tax payers and our neighbors deserve more than that. In listening to citizens needs and desires for our Parks they want more not less. The community spoke and they are strongly in support of our parks. By not funding our Parks Capitol Improvement you would be going against the wishes of our citizens.

Gladstone has 97 <sup>ALL</sup> miles of Parks and to leave them with no funding is incomprehensible to this Parks Board, we are willing to put in the work to make our parks a better place but we can't even file for grants with no funds to match or even help out. Most Grant Funding as you all well know is determined by how much time and money, we are willing to match and or give. Without funds we would potentially lose out on so many opportunities. Public works has a current list of needed repairs to some of the facilities located at the parks and with no funds? How can we even do that?

This Parks board believes that if needed our City will need to make do with the current number of employees and not plan to hire more until true funding for them can be met. To hire more people and leave our Parks system with nothing is not smart budgeting. We need to pay for what we have first then add more. Smart budgeting is necessary for a town our size, we need more than ever to live within our means.

Taking what's important away from our citizens feels like a ploy to gain additional funding and that's not what Gladstone is all about. This is not a political game to us. We care about each other, our kids, our schools and the health and welfare of our senior citizens. It is this Council's responsibility to fund the basics first, and that must include our parks.

Our Parks Board would like this Council and Mayor to consider funding the Parks Capitol Improvement Fund with \$100,000.00 per year.

Note: Voted to submit at the Gladstone Parks Board 5/13/2019